

Winterfield Township Meeting

March 13, 2018

7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by Mark Hammar, supervisor at the Winterfield Township Hall, 8987 Cook Avenue, Marion, MI. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all those present. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the agenda. Those present were Mark Hammar, supervisor, Linda Peterson: treasurer, Fred Prielipp: trustee, Shelly Laughlin: trustee and Bonnie Fox: clerk. Also present were Carl Traynor, Edwin Miller, Jr., Karen Lipovsky, Mike Clark, Deb Hammar, Harry Martin, Bonnie Blackledge, Rich Laughlin, Darrell Laughlin, Andrew Laughlin and Dustin Smith.

The minutes of the November 7, 2017 meeting were read. A motion was made to approve them. The minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting were read and amended to include the Michigan State Poverty Guidelines Resolution to read Resolution 2018 #1. Linda Peterson gave the treasurer's report and a motion was made to approve it. Bonnie Fox gave the clerk's report and a motion was made to approve it.

Karen Lipovsky, County Commissioner from District 6 gave a report of the latest County Commissioners' Meeting. It was approved for the Sheriff's office to buy a new hot water heater to wash the prisoners' clothes, as it cost almost as much to get the old one repaired as it would to buy a new one. The Drain Commissioner's deputy was sworn in, as the Drain Commissioner is being treated for colon cancer. A Civil Infraction Ordinance was passed to address the number of people building without a permit. A new building inspector was hired, David Lipovsky, Karen Lipovsky's son. The Lake meal site for seniors has been closed due to many health and safety issues. Clare County Clerk, Lori Martin has hired two new full-time employees to work in the Register of Deeds section.

Public Comment

Andrew Laughlin, Rich Laughlin and Darrell Laughlin asked about the mean ambulance response time in Winterfield Township. Supervisor, Mark Hammar, explained the township tried to be a part of the Osceola County ambulance service, paying a fee for the privilege, as the ambulance would come from Marion. This is much closer to the township than where the ambulance comes from in Clare County. However, Osceola County wanted what the Winterfield Township Board felt, was too much money. He urged anyone interested, to contact the Osceola Board of Commissioners to include our township in their ambulance area.

Shelly Laughlin, chairman, gave the Planning Commission report stating a concern that had been brought to the commission concerning the placement of the donated bench. Supervisor, Mark Hammar said the bench will stay where it is, as there had been plenty of time for the township residents to give their input as to the placement of the bench and swing set. The idea of a Neighborhood Watch Group being formed was discussed, due to the recent break-ins. Supervisor, Mark Hammar noted that Sheriff Jeff Wilson would be a good resource person to contact regarding setting up a Neighborhood Watch Group. Carl Traynor brought twenty-five years of the Zoning Board minutes and the secretary of the Planning Commission, Julie Traynor asked that they be stored at the Township Hall.

Bonnie Blackledge gave a report on the progress of her work concerning the history of the cemetery; the lots occupied, lots sold, lots available, etc. She wanted the Township Board to approve the way in which

she was designating each plot by color-coding, before she continued. The Board thanked her for the work completed so far and stated their approval. She will continue to work on the project.

Linda Peterson, treasurer, revisited a proposal to combine three separate CD's into one for a better return. She asked that we continue to think about it, as the CD's will mature in the middle of June. She checked to make sure Huntington Bank will be handling the investment and the FDIC will cover the insurance. Approximately \$15,000 will have to be put in another CD, after the three CD's are combined. Linda stated ninety-six percent of the taxes have been collected. She also said a few township residents asked about using a credit card to pay their taxes. The township is not set up at this time to utilize credit cards and Fred Prielipp, trustee, said if we do, the credit card company will charge us. Linda also said a land division has been made and the check written is usually given to the assessor, but the assessor does not want it. Supervisor, Mark Hammar, will discuss this with her. Also, a number of township residents are putting up their own address numbers and most of them are incorrect. There is a formula that needs to be used to determine the correct address. Mark Hammar, supervisor will address this problem.

Mike Clark, zoning administrator and ordinance officer, gave his report. He has completed the first section of his education and will continue the second section soon. He said he will check out a pole barn being built on Kirby Road in April, to make sure the owner follows all rules and regulations.

The road brining in our township will be done three times this summer by Beckman Productions. Mark Hammar, supervisor and Fred Prielipp, trustee had a meeting with the County Road Commission to negotiate a price for the projects to be done this summer. We have been very pleased with the work that has been done in the past.

Carl Traynor, Transfer Station attendant, stated the number of sofas and large armchairs brought to the Transfer Station has increased. They tend to take up a great deal of space in the twenty-yard container. He suggested a small fee be charged to offset the money necessary to empty the twenty-yard container more often. A discussion ensued with a motion being made to charge five dollars for each large piece of furniture bought to the transfer station to be disposed. The size of the object being disposed of will be at the discretion of the attendant.

At the last Fireboard Meeting the members asked that if the Winterfield Township supervisor could not be in attendance, someone else needs to be and have the authority to vote in his stead. A motion was made, supported and passed stating any Board member may attend the Fireboard Meeting in the supervisor's place and has the authority to vote.

Mark Hammar, supervisor, gave his report. He met with Clare County clerk, Lori Martin, to learn a copy of each of the ordinances the township passes needs to be in the County Clerk's office. They are time-stamped and available for public viewing. Mark Hammar asked that the board members and the public think about the five-year road plan and what projects need to yet be completed. He is open to suggestions.

A letter of resignation was read from clerk, Bonnie Fox, stating she accepted two jobs within a few days of each other almost a year and a half ago. She regretted having to resign, but felt she did not have the time necessary to devote to the clerk's job anymore. Bonnie Fox will resign on March 31, 2018. The Board accepted her resignation. Two people offered their services to fulfill the position until the November election; trustee Shelly Laughlin and deputy supervisor, Bonnie Blackledge both asked to be considered for the job.

The Board asked for votes of support for each candidate. Shelly wished to abstain. Fred Prielipp voted for Shelly Laughlin. Mark Hammer and Linda Peterson voted for Bonnie Blackledge to be the new clerk, as she has been a township clerk for twenty-four years downstate and has experience. Both she and Shelly Laughlin were encouraged by the Board to run for clerk in the election this fall. Bonnie Blackledge will take the clerk's position beginning on April 1, 2018.

The next Winterfield Township Board Meeting will be May 8, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Fox, clerk